

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested. Claims 15-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 15-16, 24-25 and 33 are amended. By this Amendment, no claims are added or cancelled. Claims 15, 24 and 33 are the independent claims.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting the interview conducted on September 3, 2009. During the interview, Applicants discussed the rejection to independent claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dawson et. al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,229,506, hereinafter "Dawson") in view of Kimura (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0080474, hereinafter "Kimura"). In accordance with our discussion, Applicants have amended independent claim 15 to recite "the voltage line being set to a value which corresponds to an anode potential **from a property** of the current driving light emitting element" to overcome the Kimura reference (Emphasis Added). Support for this amendment is provided at page 51 of Applicants' originally filed application.

During the interview, as indicated in the September 9, 2009 Interview Summary, the Examiner acknowledged that this amendment appears to overcome the Kimura reference. For example, the Examiner cited to paragraphs 145-155 and FIG. 18-19 of Kimura in the current Office Action as disclosing the "voltage line" within the meaning of claim 15. As explained during the interview and indicated in our previous response, the current supply line 1813 is **not** the "voltage line" of claim 15 because the current supply line 1813 does not correspond to *an anode potential* of the current driving light emitting element. Applicants have further clarified this feature by

amending claim 15 to recite that the anode potential is derived from a *property* of the current driving light emitting element. In contrast, the current supply line 1813 of Kimura is a **current supply line** – that is not derived from a property of the current driving light emitting element.

Independent claims 24 and 33 have been amended to include features similar to the above-recited features of claim 15. Because Applicants have distinguished Kimura from the independent claims, Applicants respectfully request that all rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn, and the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance in the next USPTO communication.

Also, during the interview, Applicants discussed the “second switching transistor” of claim 15. For instance, Applicants argued that transistor 1817 of Kimura (allegedly the second switching transistor) does not connect a second terminal of the second capacitor to the current **output** terminal of the driving transistor, in contrast to claim 15. No express agreement was reached in regards to this feature. However, in light of the distinctions discussed above between the independent claims and Kimura, this argument is rendered moot. None-the-less, Applicants have provided below detailed arguments against Kimura with respect to the “second switching transistor” of claim 15.

Furthermore, during the interview, Applicants discussed the rejection to claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Dawson. For example, Applicants discussed the feature of the second switching transistor operating in an opposite logic state from the third switching transistor in the first and second periods, where the connection operation in the first period is contrary to that of the second period. In contrast, transistors 1807 and 1817 of Kimura do not operate according to the limitations of dependent claim 16. As discussed during the interview, Applicants have amended claim 16 to recite “the second switching transistor operating

in an opposite logic state from the third switching transistor in the **first and second periods.**” (Emphasis Added). In response, the Examiner agreed that the above-identified amendments to claim 16 appear to overcome the cited portions of Kimura. Also, Applicants have made the same amendments to claim 25. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that dependent claims 16 and 25 be allowed.

Although Applicants and the Examiner agreed that the above-identified amendments to claims 15 and 16 (as well as claims 24, 25, and 33) appear to overcome the Kimura reference, Applicants have provided detailed arguments below with respect to each of the points discussed above.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

I. Claims 15-23 and 33-34

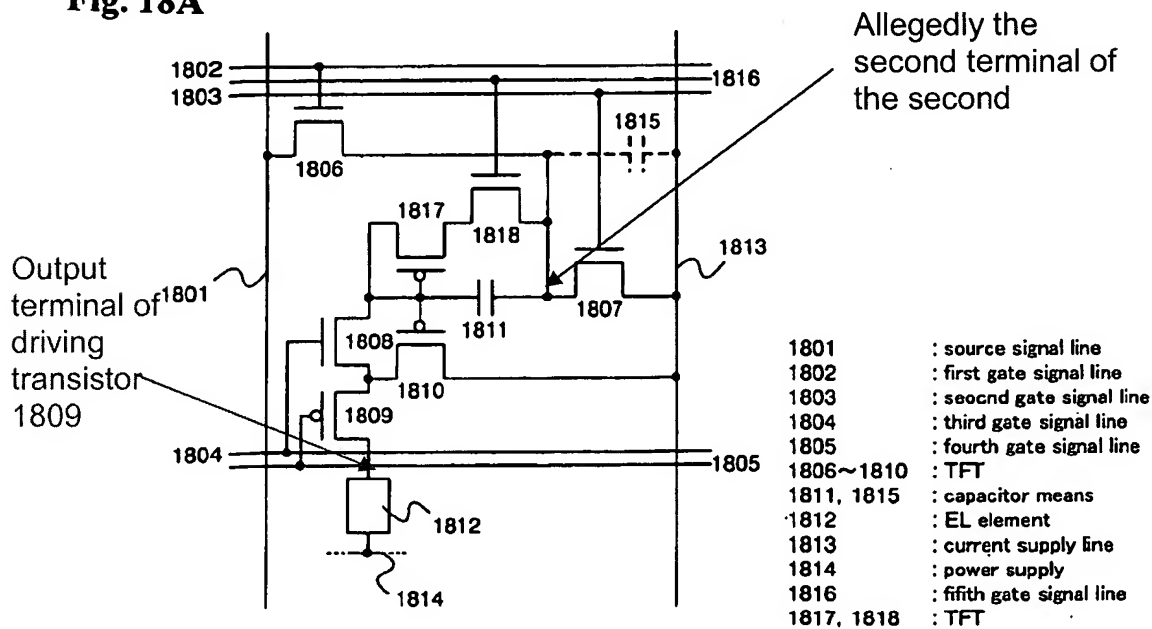
The Examiner has rejected claims 15-23 and 33-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dawson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,229,506, hereinafter “Dawson”) in view of Kimura (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0080474, hereinafter “Kimura”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

As stated above, Applicants have amended independent claim 15 to recite “the voltage line being set to a value which corresponds to an anode potential **from a property** of the current driving light emitting element” to overcome the Kimura reference (Emphasis Added). As indicated by the Examiner, this amendment appears to overcome the Kimura reference. The reasons why Kimura does not disclose or suggest this feature is explained above, and on page 12 of Applicants’ April 7, 2009 Preliminary Amendment. Independent claim 33 has been amended to include the same feature of claim 15 identified above.

Furthermore, as indicated above, Kimura does not disclose or suggest the “second switching transistor” within the meaning of claim 15. For example, the Examiner relies upon Kimura as disclosing “a second switching transistor” and a “third switching transistor” of claim 15. In particular, the Examiner asserts that transistor 1817 of FIG. 18A corresponds to the “second switching transistor” of claim 15, and transistor 1807 of FIG. 18A corresponds to the “third switching transistor” of claim 15.

Please find below FIG. 18A of Kimura.

Fig. 18A



Applicants submit that transistor 1817 (allegedly the “second switching transistor”) of Kimura does not connect a second terminal of the second capacitor to the current **output** terminal of the driving transistor via a wire or a transistor as required by claim 15. The Examiner asserts that capacitor 1811 corresponds to the “second capacitor” of claim 15.

Referring to FIG. 18A above, transistor 1817 clearly does **not** connect a second terminal of the second capacitor to the current **output terminal of the driving**

transistor. Rather, transistors 1817 and 1818 appear to be used in order to short-circuit capacitor 1811.

Dawson fails to cure the deficiencies of Kimura with respect to the above-identified features of claim 15. Also, claim 33 has been amended to recite “the voltage line being set to a value which corresponds to an anode potential **from a property** of the current driving light emitting element”, and therefore is patentably distinct from Kimura for the same reasons stated above.

In addition, as stated above, the Examiner agreed that Kimura appears not to disclose or suggest the features of dependent claims 16 and 25. For example, as explained during the interview, in Applicants’ previous response, Applicants amended claims 16 and 25 to further include “the second switching transistor operating in an opposite logic state from the third switching transistor.” Applicants included this limitation to further clarify that the second switching transistor operates in a different state from the third switching transistor. For instance, in the same period (first period) in claims 16 and 25, the second switching transistor disconnects the second terminal of the second capacitor and the current output terminal of the driving transistor and the third switching transistor connects the second terminal of the second capacitor to the voltage line, and **such connection operation is contrary to that in the second period**. In Applicants’ previous response, Applicants argued that Kimura does not disclose this situation because the transistors in Kimura always operate according to the same logic level.

The Examiner *now* relies upon transistor 1817 as disclosing the second switching transistor (as opposed to transistor 1818). Applicants do not agree that transistor 1807 and transistor 1817 operate according to the limitations of claims 16 and 25.

For support for the Examiner's position, the Examiner relies upon paragraphs [00145-00155] and FIGS. 18-19 of Kimura as suggesting the feature "the second switching transistor operating in an opposite logic state from the third switching transistor" of claims 16 and 25. In particular, the Examiner cites to FIG. 19 of Kimura. See Office Action at page 16. FIGS. 19A-19F illustrate the operations of FIG. 18A of Kimura. Please find below a brief description of FIGS. 19A-19F.

FIGS. 19A and 19B illustrate operations for charging the capacitor means 1811. In both these figures, transistors 1817 and 1807 are **ON**.

FIG. 19C illustrates the state of keeping V_{th} constant. In this figure, transistors 1817 and 1807 are **OFF**.

FIG. 19D illustrates inputting an image signal. In this figure, transistor 1817 is transitioning from **OFF** to **ON**, and transistor 1807 is **OFF**.

FIG. 19E illustrates a completion of inputting the image signal. In this figure, transistor 1817 is **ON**, and transistor 1807 is **OFF**.

FIG. 19F illustrates when the OED is emitting light. In this figure, transistor 1817 is **ON**, and transistor 1807 is **OFF**.

Because transistors 1817 and 1807 operate in a different logic state in FIG. 19E and FIG. 19F, the Examiner appears to suggest that these figures read on the above-identified features of claims 16 and 25. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's rationale. For instance, according to claims 16 and 25, the second switching transistor disconnects the second terminal of the second capacitor and the current output terminal of the driving transistor and the third switching transistor connects the second terminal of the second capacitor to the voltage line, and **such connection operation is contrary to that in the second period**. Transistors 1817 and 1807 do not operate according to alternating logic levels, as described in claims 16 and 25.

Claims 17-23 and 34, dependent on claims 15 and 33, are patentable for at least the same reasons stated above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request this rejection to claims 15-23 and 33-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

II. Claims 24-32

The Examiner has rejected claims 24-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Dawson. Claim 24 has been amended to recite “the voltage line being set to a value which corresponds to an anode potential **from a property** of the current driving light emitting element.” Therefore, claim 24 is patentable for at least the same reasons stated above. As such, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of the pending claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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